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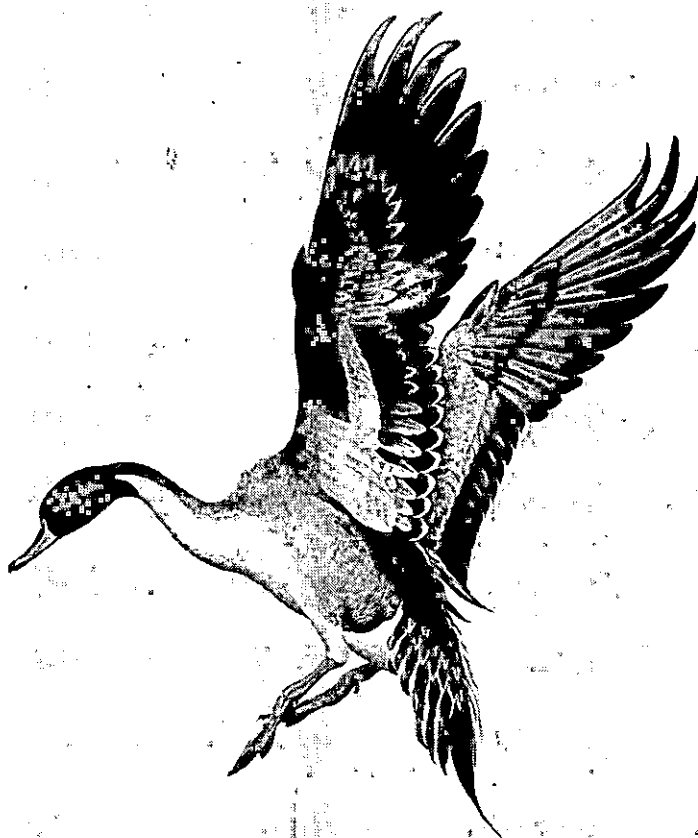
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

OUR COVER

The artistic ability of our staff artist, Ray Harm, is once again displayed in his painting of the male Pintail.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1982-1983

Twenty-five counts are included in this report. A total of 113 species (four less than last year) was observed. Fourteen species were recorded on every count, and 14 were recorded on only one count. The warm temperature through January 5 obviously had an impact. There were no Evening Grosbeaks reported and fewer Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Pine Siskins, and waterfowl than in previous years. Unusual sightings included an Indigo Bunting and Harris' Sparrow.

Eastern Bluebirds and Carolina Wrens are on the increase. A total of 827 bluebirds were reported this year compared to 698 last year, and the number of Carolina Wrens increased from 342 to 436. Although mid-winter bird counts do not have the statistical validity of breeding bird counts, they do express trends. House Finches continue to increase in number and continue their expansion into western Kentucky. Unfortunately, House Sparrow numbers are also much higher this year, but winter roost species numbers are considerably lower.

The three counts with the lowest number of recorded species are not included in the table because of space limitation but are described along with all other counts. Thanks are expressed to all participants, particularly to those who included comments about their areas and observations and those who completed verification forms on unusual species.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle center the Trace and Mulberry Flat Road.) Habitat as described in 1980. Dec. 18; 6:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 33 to 43°; wind S, 5-10 m.p.h. with gusts up to 20 m.p.h. Gray overcast changed to light rain about 10:00 a.m. Fifteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours 35 (15.5 on foot, 19.5 by car). Total party miles 235 (23 on foot, 212 by car). Total species 73; total individuals 110,269.

Gray skies and rain, wide dispersal of waterfowl, and only fair natural food supply were factors in this count. The turkeys, common but seldom found on midwinter counts, were observed by Wellbaum, Eberhardt, and White. The almost total lack of meadowlarks was astonishing. — David Berry, Shirley Berry, Wally Brines, Roger Eberhardt, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Bob Kraft, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson (compiler), Ed Ray, Mark Shell, Bob Smith, Beth Wellbaum, Stephen White.

MARION (center Forest Grove.) Habitat 30% coniferous forest, 30% deciduous forest, 30% meadows and hedgerows, 10% reservoirs and creeks. Dec. 26; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 45 to 50°; wind westerly 0-10 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (6 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 2,778. — C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer, and Marie Frazer.

SORGHO (center L. E. Wilson farm). Habitat as described in 1982. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 30 to 45°; wind 0-5 m.p.h. Eleven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 88 (80 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 94 (10 on foot, 84 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 6,231.

Carolina Wrens have increased in number over last year. — Joey

Brown, Marty Brown, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Ray Iles, W. T. Perkins (compiler), Mildred Powell, A. L. Powell, Tommy Stevenson, Elenor Wilson, L. E. Wilson.

YELVINGTON (center junction of U.S. Hwy. 60 and Ky. Hwy. 405 at Maceo). Habitat as described in 1982. Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast, rain in p.m.; temp. 36 to 38°; wind 5-10 m.p.h., gusty in morning. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 33 (7 on foot, 26 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 1,179.

Lakes and river had no waterfowl. The 22 bluebirds were worth noting, but the total species seen was disappointing. — Joey Brown, Mike Brown, Ray Iles, Bill Perkins, A. L. Powell (compiler), Mildred Powell, Maudie Ray.

MADISONVILLE (center Madisonville, including J. W. Hancock farm, Brown road, Elk Creek, Highway 892, and three lakes at Madisonville.) Habitat: deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, and open fields 20%. Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy in a.m. to mostly clear in p.m.; temp. 35 to 52°; wind s.w., 3-15 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours 20 (17 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 82 (7 on foot, 75 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,147.

The open water at Lake Pewee contained several waterfowl. Meadowlarks appear to be scarce this winter. — James W. Hancock (compiler), Allen Morgan, Mary Travis, Nathanael Travis.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (center Park Lodge area). Habitat as described in 1979. Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear in a.m. with increasing clouds in p.m.; temp 25 to 36°; wind NE, 5-9 m.p.h. One observer in one party. Total hours 10 (9 on foot, 1 by car). Total miles 31 (8 on foot, 23 by car). Total species 32; total individuals 299. No unexpected species were recorded. The total included 21 Ring-necked Ducks, 10 Common Goldeneye and 124 Dark-eyed Juncos. — James W. Hancock (compiler).

HOPKINSVILLE (center as described in 1982). Habitat: fence rows and roadside 20%, cropland 20%, pond and lake 15%, grasslands and pasture 15%, town and barnyard 15%, deciduous forest 15%. Jan. 1; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky most clear; temp. 22 to 42°; wind W-NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours 17 (2 on foot, 15 by car). Total party miles 205 (2 on foot, 203 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 10,681. — Freddie Higgins (compiler), Kathy Higgins, Maggie Selvidge, Roger Selvidge.

BOWLING GREEN (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 28 to 42°; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h. Six observers in two parties. Total party-hours 17 (9 on foot, 5 by car, 3 by canoe). Total party miles 140 (6 on foot, 131 by car, 3 by boat). Total species 54; total individuals 2,597.

The unseasonal warm weather probably reduced the numbers of finches and waterfowl seen. The 17 Carolina Wrens were encouraging. The canoe trip resulted in the sighting of herons, owls, and kingfisher, but no waterfowl were observed along the stream. — Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jenkins, Wayne Mason, Bill Mathes, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp 36 to 43°; wind SW, 5 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (25 on foot, 11.5 by car). Total party miles 78.5 (15.5 on foot, 63 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 11,818. — Steve Barker, Paul Bayer, Mike Beiser, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Larry Holmes, Frances Jones, Howard M. Jones, Mike Jones, Irene Kokkala, Wayne Mason, Russell Starr, Al Stickley, Dan Twedt.

GLASGOW (center Barren County Courthouse.) Habitat as previously described. Jan. 1; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 27 to 42°; wind W, 0-5 m.p.h. Eight observers in six parties. Total party-hours 38 (27 on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 127 (12 on foot, 115 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 3,511.

Waterfowl numbers were down for the third straight year. Other disappointments were the low numbers of Shrikes and Swamp Sparrows and the absence of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Waxwings, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds continue to show dramatic increases. Also of interest was a large flock of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls at the dam. The five House Finches represent the first record of this species on Glasgow's Mid-winter bird count. — Mrs. James Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Martha B. Mason, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Mrs. Billie Moore, Mrs. Emma Jean Pitcock, Dr. Russell Starr.

OTTER CREEK PARK (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy with intermittent showers in a.m. and clearing somewhat in afternoon; temp 47 to 68°; wind NW, 5 m.p.h. in a.m. and SSE, 10 m.p.h. in p.m. Eight observers in four parties. Total party-hours 34 (24 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 123 (16 on foot, 107 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 2,394.

The Ohio River, Doe Lake, and ponds were unusually high, and low-lying fields were flooded. Waterfowl were almost absent. Carolina Wrens and Bluebirds showed increase in numbers. There were low counts on Purple Finches, goldfinch, juncos, and some of the sparrows. — Garrett Adams, Mary B. Bauer, Richard Cassell, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), F. W. Stamm, Donald Summerfield.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974). Jan. 2; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 24 to 40°; wind N-S, 0-20 m.p.h. Seventeen observers in eight parties. Total party-hours 57 (35.5 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party miles 336 (22.5 on foot, 313.5 by car and ½ owl hour). Total species 64; total individuals 8,655.

This was the first year that two Phoebe were reported. The 28 Red-tailed Hawks was the highest total ever for that species. Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds have now recovered about halfway to their pre-1978 totals. Golden-crowned Kinglets and blackbird numbers were high, but Robins and Cedar Waxwings were low in number. — Garrett Adams, Mary B. Bauer, Jane and Pat Bell, Alice Ann Coomes, Susan Cruse, Diane Ebel, Katherine Fulkerson, Doxie Noonan, Joan Noel, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Ann Robinson, Nancy Scheldorf, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith.

LOUISVILLE (center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972).

1982-1983

[illegible]

TURKEY VULTURE	2	3	2	1	13	4	*	53	93	*	1
BLACK VULTURE	1			12			5	* 149	4	27	
SHARP-SH. HAWK					1	2	2	1		1	
COOPER'S HAWK	3		3		1	2	1	7	*	3	1
RED-TAILED HAWK	4	4	4	3	22	10	2	5	28	8	34
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	4		*		2	1	8	2	1	2	1
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	1				2	5	6	*	5	2	3
BALD EAGLE	19					1					
MARSH HAWK	*	1	3		2	2	1	1	2	4	1
PEREGRINE FALCON								*			*
AMERICAN KESTREL	5	7	25	9	11	29	17	1	18	9	68
RUFFED GROUSE								65	20	52	18
BOBWHITE	3	31	13	1	5	8	9	7			
TURKEY	21										
AMERICAN COOT	3			590		27	1	7			
KILLDEER	4	7	17	24	29	13	10	11	36	*	16
COMMON SNIPES	6	1				*	1	4	1	1	
HERRING GULL	34						100		4		*
RING-BILLED GULL	945		4				153		4	1	1
BONAPARTE'S GULL	54										
ROCK DOVE	130	200	38	6	44	134	134	119	5	104	1039
MOURNING DOVE	104	100	379	25	75	118	187	13	102	208	1010
BARN OWL											
SCREECH OWL	1	1		*				5	2	8	2
GREAT HORNED OWL	2	1	2	3	2		1	3	5	*	2
BARRED OWL	*	1					2			1	
BELTED KINGFISHER	9	1	1	1	3	1	4	3	6	24	1
COMMON FLICKER	20	5	11	9	14	13	28	9	14	16	56
PILEATED WOODPECKER	9	1	2	2		6	16	8	5	16	10
RED-BEL. WOODPECKER	28	17	44	14	8	19	10	16	29	37	40
RED-HEAD. WOODPECKER	7	22	5	7		3	2	5	1	2	1
YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER	10	2	1	1	3	4	3	4	4	2	3
HAIRY WOODPECKER	6	2	6	2	*	3	3	5	4	14	12
DOWNY WOODPECKER	29	10	30	15	9	11	14	15	25	19	70
EASTERN PHOEBE											
HORNED LARK	12	83	125	2		3	3	2	2	1	
BLUE JAY	50	89	24	74	53	91	47	57	137	198	176
COMMON CROW	43	16	633	27	39	77	66	61	85	343	864

MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1982-1983

	LAND BETWEEN LAKES	MARION	SORGOHO	YELVINGTON	MADISONVILLE	HOPKINSVILLE	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE N. PK.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	BERNHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	LEXINGTON	RICHMOND	DANVILLE	BURLINGTON	SOMERSET	ROMAN COUNTY	CARTER COUNTY
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	36	18	90	50	27	25	51	77	76	80	241	413	18	273	49	238	76	166	43	35	77	31
TUFTED TITMOUSE	42	2	80	20	10	17	37	67	59	59	154	268	8	113	62	130	19	77	21	20	37	20
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	22	2	10	5	3	8	5	24	20	12	70	22		9	3	11	10	10	9	21	8	6
RED-BR. NUTHATCH								13	2		47					1		3			2	
BROWN CREEPER			4	3	1		2	6	2	3	17	19		19	1	10		6	1	1	1	
HOUSE WREN							2															
WINTER WREN	2			1	*		*	2	4		2	13			2	2					1	
BEWICK'S WREN																						
CAROLINA WREN	10	1	11	4	4	4	17	9	47	23	41	63	1	80	11	66	1	10	4	13	4	5
MOCKINGBIRD	3	21	24	16	11	50	38	2	32	19	55	140	12	34	4	62	11	63	3	16	1	1
GRAY CATBIRD							1															
BROWN THRASHER		2	2	11	4		4		1	2		2	5	3		3		2				
AMERICAN ROBIN	24	6	4	10	*	4	79	30	40	36	93	857	33	229	36	34	1	52	5	1	10	
HERMIT THRUSH					*			17		1	2									2		
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	50	*	*	22	*	14	5	3	32	42	100	30	24	153	49	117	33	109	20	12	11	1
GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET	3			*	1	1	2	121	6	24	106	67		25	22	21		5	5	15	*	7
RUBY-CR. KINGLET	6	4									1	2	2	6		3	1	2	2	4	*	
CEDAR WAXWING	5				*			30			56	15	3						4		8	
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	2	4	1			9	2		2	1	3	1	2	6		1		3				
STARLING	105100	500	570	81	123	1587	557	118	462	221	2156	8290	1432	871	379	5111	415	3277	201	707	91	18
YELLOW-R. WARBLER	3				1			46	6	27	127	6	2	29	10	49	11			1	2	
HOUSE SPARROW	59	1000	550	126	88	587	150		81	174	485	723	243	222	155	652	117	605	104	67	26	6
E. MEADOWLARK	1	8	76	26	9	96	45		28	11	101	26		8	27	138	17	156		72	10	
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	529		2	2	8	1610	41			9	637	10456	25	13				23		1		
RUSTY BLACKBIRD								10			1	891	50			1		10		20		

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	400	35	15	10	2	2610	93	10503	1079	81	912	66285	25	3	2	40	3	
COMMON GRACKLE	15	60	1				25		1		1	253	50	35		246	520	1116
BR-HEADED COWBIRD	67	150	179	59	72	126	144	47	132	163	378	688	57	423	100	362	37	52
CARDINAL												1					169	71
INDIGO BUNTING	12	3	20	5	1	2	48	44	60	29	90	114	50	206	49	90	103	33
PURPLE FINCH					1		*		5			89		5		62	35	7
HOUSE FINCH	2											*					42	6
PINE SISKIN																5	1	
AMER. GOLDFINCH	118	2	115	72	16	21	97	11	73	10	51	370	16	288	120	293	38	124
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	18	2	23	9	13	18	57	2	17	41	24	45	16	32	27	19	2	32
SAVANNAH SPARROW	1									6							6	1
VESPER SPARROW	1																	2
DARK-EYED JUNCO	772	100	87	82	50	225	154	220	89	245	531	183	28	577	306	450	134	90
TREE SPARROW	8	6	25				2					16	1			3	4	1
CHIPPING SPARROW												1				1		
FIELD SPARROW	16	2	3	107	*	19	28	16	93	23	29	42	1	64	3	152	19	50
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	300	38	76	4	66	12	1	6	87	26	90	*	55	2	67	1	64	5
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	83	78	87	44	21	39	119	109	174	79	137	391	1	261	21	150	119	114
HARRIS' SPARROW														1			26	48
LINCOLN'S SPARROW												1						
FOX SPARROW	2	4	2			1	15		1	1		5	1	11	4	1	2	*
SWAMP SPARROW	13	1			1	3	22		4	8	8	21				10	3	1
SONG SPARROW	25	2	80	38	22	26	93	34	73	86	135	413	24	158	25	150	11	29
LAPLAND LONGSPUR																	40	21
SNOW BUNTING												1					29	22

DAY OF COUNT	D18	D26	D30	D18	D20	J1	D21	D19	J1	D27	J2	D19	D26	D19	J2	D18	J2	D18	D18	D18	D30	J2
NUMBER OF SPECIES	73	47	46	44	50	42	54	43	60	57	64	85	45	63	49	75	48	63	38	59	52	36
INDIVIDUALS	110269	2778	6231	1179	2147	10681	2597	11818	3511	2394	8655	97724	2417	6139	2094	15156	1743	7783	891	2944	816	468
OBSERVERS	14	3	11	7	4	4	6	14	8	8	17	32	3	25	6	33	4	28	8	6	2	4

* Indicates the species was recorded but not on the count day.

Dec. 19; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 40 to 49°; wind SSW, 0-20 m.p.h.; all water open. Thirty-two observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 78 (43 on foot, 35 by car). Total party miles 475 (48 on foot, 427 by car). Total species 85; total individuals 97,724.

Waterfowl diversity was exceptionally low this winter, and the warm weather was probably responsible for the low numbers and diversity of northern finches, larks, etc. The large numbers of blackbirds, notably Common Grackles, were due in large part to what appeared to be a massive migrational movement; these individuals did not seem to be part of any known local roost, and their migration may have been stimulated by severe weather to the north of Kentucky. Carolina Wrens have recovered nicely, and House Finches are increasing rapidly. The Peregrine Falcon was noted by two experienced observers, Lene Rauth and L. D. Smith. The Indigo Bunting and Chipping Sparrow were both at the feeder of Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., where the latter species was also recorded last winter; both have been present for weeks and have been photographed. The Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded by Dottie Muntan in an area where the species has been noted in previous years. — Garrett Adams, Brian and Karen Anderson, Mary Bauer, Donald Blackburn, Kevin Donahoe, Muriel Doolittle, Patricia Henderer, Bob Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Knopf, F. H., F. X., and John Krull, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Burt Monroe III, Mark Monroe, Dottie Muntan, Eudoxia and Robert Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Judy Robertson, Virginia Rommel, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Bob Zaremba (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (center and habitat as described in 1982). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy with rain all day; temp. 40 to 50°; wind W-NW, 10 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours 9½ (2½ on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 111½ (1½ on foot, 110 by car). Total species 45; total individuals 2,417. — John K. Brown, Todd Brown, W. H. Brown (compiler).

FRANKFORT (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast, light rain and fog, water open; temp. 34 to 47°; wind W, 8-31 m.p.h. Twenty-five observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 76 (52 on foot, 24 by car). Total party miles 331 (48 on foot, 283 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 6,139.

The Barn Owl, a first count record, was seen by the Morris party. The Harris' Sparrow, also a first count record, was found by Coskren and Morris and has subsequently been seen by many observers. It appeared to be a second winter male and was found in a fencerow with White-crowned Sparrows. The Peregrine Falcon was observed at close range during the period by W. H. Brown at a Frankfort rock quarry where numerous Rock Doves roost. Camburn and Justis counted 133 Black Vultures in a single flock near the Kentucky River north of Frankfort. Purple Finches were everywhere. Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds have continued a strong recovery. — Bill Blackburn, John and W. H. Brown, Keith Camburn, Laura and Rose Canon, Dennis Coskren, Manton Cornett, Peggy Durbin, Steve Edwards, Bill and Charles Grayson, Virginia Honaker, Ruth Housek, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff Jones, Cathy Justis, Lynn Mekus, Robert Morris, Marla Nunnally, Glenn Raleigh, R. Watson, Suzanne Watson, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1972). Jan. 2; 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 24 to 44°; wind NE, 8-20 m.p.h. Six observers in four parties. Total party-hours 32 (13 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 222 (12 on foot, 210 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 2,094.

Owls reported are the result of calling by Tim Towles. The scarcity of American Robins and the total absence of Cedar Waxwings is probably attributable to the lack of red cedar berries. Pileated Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches have increased in number. — Stuart Butler, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Tim Towles, Tim Williams.

LEXINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1978). Dec. 18; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear in morning, cloudy in afternoon; temp. 28-45°; wind S, 5-10 m.p.h. Thirty-three observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours 91 (26 on foot, 65 by car). Total party miles 510 (80 on foot, 480 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 15,156. — Roger Applegate, Roger Barbour, Eugene and Ann Bradley, Mary Burns, Rose and Karen Canon, Dennis Coskren, Ron Duncan, Lyda Feck, Doris Ferm, Mike and Jean Flynn, Anna Mae Helton, Terry Hobbs, Terri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Bob Morris, Rob Perry, Tom Rae, Glenn Raleigh, Algie and Virginia Reece, Dawn Ross, Barbara and John Ruff, Marie Sutton, Andy and Marion Uterhart, Clara Wieland, Mike Williams, Jim Williams (compiler), Bernice Wood.

RICHMOND (center as described in 1982). Habitat: fencerows and roadsides 40%, woodland 20%, pasture and open fields 30%, lawns 10%. Jan. 2; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 30 to 45°; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours 19 (3 on foot, 16 by car). Total party miles 167 (5 on foot, 162 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 1,743. — John Fuller, William Lynch, Tammy Rhodus, Gary Ritchison (compiler).

DANVILLE (center Boyle County courthouse). Habitat 52% farmland, 18% woodland, 12% streambeds, 9% residential, 5% parks, 4% lakesides. Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 27 to 45°; wind W, 10 m.p.h. Twenty-eight observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 63.4 (19.5 on foot, 43.9 by car). Total party miles 461 (13 on foot, 448 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 7,783. — Chauncey Alcock, Ernest Baird, Harry and Molly Caldwell, Ken Dickey, Neil and Virginia Eklund (compiler), Tobin Foster, Mrs. Tom Foster, John Gower, JoAnn and Mike Hamm, Edna and Frank Heck, Dorothy Belle Hill, Jack Kellam, J. W. Kemper, F. W. and Naomi Loetscher, Mike Marsh, Jack Newton, John Nichols, Dee Pendencygraft, Les Reid, Joe Russell, Ellen Shiba, Tim Simpson, Charles Vahlkamp.

BURLINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1975). Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 27 to 39°; wind SE, 5-15 m.p.h. Eight observers in three parties. Total party-hours 21 (14 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 170 (7 on foot, 163 by car). Total species 38, total individuals 891.

Two small flocks of waterfowl were seen but not identified as to species. Birds were in low numbers, possibly due to the warm weather. — Mike Andrews, Joanne Conradi, Gerri Kennedy, Laura Kob, Linda Kob, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, George Schoen.

SOMERSET (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 18; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 24 to 48°; wind S, 0-10 m.p.h. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours 23½ (6½ on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 148 (5 on foot, 143 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 2,944. — Diane Elmore, Jackie B. Elmore, Sr. (compiler), Bill Moore, Mary Lou Moore, Ginger Murphy, Robert Murphy.

ROWAN COUNTY (center Morehead, Clark Hatchery, Cave Run Lake via Rt. 801 to Clay Lick Campground, to Rock Ford.) Habitat: fish hatchery, lake and shore, fields and mixed hardwood. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 23 to 35°; wind W, 1-3 m.p.h., heavy frost in morning. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 52 (6 on foot, 46 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 816.

Blackbirds were almost totally absent during the count period. There were larger numbers of individuals and higher numbers of species this year. The high points of the day were two immature Bald Eagles, a female Oldsquaw, and a Snow Goose. — Fred Busroe (compiler), Jeff Foster.

CARTER COUNTY (center Grayson Lake). Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 30 to 40°; wind SW, 5-10 m.p.h. Four observers in one party. Total party hours 9 (8 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total species 36; total individuals 468. — Jeffery Adams, Margaret Adams, James McCormick (compiler), Martha McCormick.

PERRY COUNTY (center Bonnyman). Habitat: woodland and woodland edges. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 62°; wind calm; drizzle. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (9 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles 15 (2 on foot, 13 by car). Total species 30; total individuals 124.

The count day had springlike weather, and it was very warm and very wet. Ruffed Grouse and Barred Owls are common in the area, but Great Horned Owls are becoming scarce. No unusual species were recorded on this count. — Don Spencer (compiler), Robert Sawyer.

CUMBERLAND GAP (center as described in 1982). Habitat: mesophytic forest 30%, residential 25%, reservoirs 15%, brushy clearings 15%, open fields 15%. Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 40 to 50°; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car, plus 7 hours at feeders). Total party miles 64 (3 on foot, 61 by car). Total species 33; total individuals 535.

This is the first year that a Bufflehead has been recorded on this count. Golden-crowned Kinglets were unusually common (22) as were Pine Siskins (24) and American Goldfinches (63). — Richard Cassell, Ross and Dorothy Chasteen, Ron Day, Danny and Maisie Hoskins, Barry Howard (compiler), Bill Taylor.

— H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, 42101.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1982

ANNE L. STAMM

The 1982 Fall Migration was rather dull and uneventful. There were few detectable migration waves; warblers in some sections just filtered through. In some south-central and north-eastern locations the season seemed to be more interesting. Ducks were late in arriving and shorebird migration was below average. The Willet, White-rumped Sandpiper and American Avocets were among the most unusual shorebirds. A few rarities such as the White Ibis, Whistling Swan, Oldsquaw and Cattle Egrets kept birders afield.

Temperatures during the months of August and September averaged below normal. October and November proved to be a sharp contrast as temperatures averaged above normal. In Louisville on November 1 a high of 80 degrees was reached! A low of 32 degrees was not reached until October 22 and 26. The mild weather retarded migration and some species lingered beyond the normal departure dates.

Precipitation in the Louisville area averaged above normal in August and also slightly above normal in September. In western Kentucky intense storms in late August brought two to four inches of rain. Flash flood warnings were issued for Calloway, Trigg and Marshall counties. Flooding, mostly confined to road and low-lying areas, occurred in Allen, Barren, Clinton, Cumberland, Warren and Wayne counties. October's rainfall was below normal, and November was much above normal.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons were scattered across the state from Lake Pewee to Cave Run Lake, with one to four birds in most locations; earliest migrants were two at Louisville, November 4 (LR); with peak counts of eight at Hendrick's Creek, November 14 (RS); 25+ at Green River Lake, November 28 (JEL) and 28 at Cave Run Lake, November 29 (FB). Horned Grebe arrived later than normal; first migrant noted at Towhead Island, November 11 (DN); 52 at Shippingport Island, November 28 was the highest number reporter (LR). Pied-billed Grebe were scarce, with a high of 23 at Lake Pewee, October 5 (JH). Three Double-crested Cormorants were first seen at Louisville on September 14 (BPP), but a migratory flock of 19 flew over the Mayfair basin in Louisville, October 15 (DN) and another flock of 32 over Louisville, October 25 (BPP). It has been a number of years since such a high count has been noted in the Louisville area.

Herons through Ibis — Great Blue Heron were observed in fair numbers in most areas, with a peak count of 25+ at Green River Lake on August 15 (JEL); 24 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, November 22 (DC); 13 at Bend Bottoms, Boone County, September 26 (LMc); and 7 to 14 at the Falls of the Ohio from October 21 to end of period (m. ob.). Few observers mentioned the Green Heron, although they were "common" in northern Kentucky (LMc); one remained until November 10 at Somerset (JEL). The only reports of Little Blue Heron came from Louisville with one at the Falls of the Ohio on August 5 (LR), four (2 ad. & 2 im.) at Mayfair basins, August 9 and one still there August 15 (DN). Post-breeding movements of Cattle Egrets were few: two at Mayfair basin on October 10 (DN) and one at the Clark Fish Hatchery, November 18 (LK, FB) and two there

on November 22 and 24 (AS, LK, FB). A single Great Egret remained in and around the Falls of the Ohio from August 1 to November 13 (LR) and was seen by many observers; a flock of 11 was noted at Guist Lake, October 9 (WB) and 12 at Mayfair basins on the following day (FS, S), but 18 there later in the day (DN). Black-crowned Night Heron were seen regularly at the Falls of the Ohio throughout August and September, with a high count of 72 immatures and 13 adults on September 21 (LR), three still there on October 20 (BPB); an immature remained until November 11 and 22 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Falls of the Ohio, October 21, was a late straggler (S, FS). A White Ibis was encountered in Wayne County at Powersburg on August 15 by Roger Guffey (*vide* DC).

Waterfowl — Quite unusual was a Whistling Swan on a small pond in the Glasgow area, August 29 (RS); it was seen the previous day by the farm manager, but was gone by August 30. Ducks and geese were late in arriving, at least in numbers. Forty migrant Canada Geese arrived at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on September 18 (TY); 4800 there by mid-October and 9000 by November 30 (TY); a flock of 70+ observed at Otter Creek Park on October 31 (DS) and 500 on November 23 at Lake Barkley (BPB). Two White-fronted Geese had arrived at BWMA by September 18 (TY). Also a count of 5000 Snow Geese at BWMA was made on November 30 (TY). Duck migration was about average in northern Kentucky, "with Mallards and Wood Ducks providing best numbers" (LMc), but the majority of observers felt that migration was late and numbers did not appear until late in November. In western Kentucky, where we have our largest population of ducks, only 1000 had arrived by mid-October, but by the end of November there were some 20,000 at BWMA (TY). Black Ducks were reported in small numbers, with 25 as the largest number at Cave Hill Cemetery, October 10 (S, FS). Small numbers of Gadwall were reported from Jefferson, Pulaski and Rowan counties with up to 50 at Falls of the Ohio in November (no date-BPB). The peak count of Green-winged Teal was 54 at Lake Pewee on November 6 (JH). The flock of 35 American Widgeon at Willow Lake, November 25 was the highest number reported (S, FS). The 75+ Redheads at Green River Lake, November 28 were of special interest since there are few records from this section of the state (JEL). Although Ring-necked Ducks were scarce in the Louisville area, some 650 were present at Lake Pewee on November 14 (JH). The single Ring-necked, previously reported in the Louisville area on July 27, remained throughout the summer and early fall and was seen as late as October 21 (S) and November 4 (DH). Scarcely anyone mentioned the Canvasback and they were late in arriving: 14 at Lake Pewee on November 14 (JH); 1 at Louisville, November 25 (S, GA), but 49 there November 28 (LR). Three hundred Lesser Scaup were at Falls of the Ohio, November 22 (BPB), but apparently moved on. American Goldeneye and Bufflehead were reported in small numbers with 30 as the high for the latter species at Cox's Park, November 28 (JR). Apparently November 28 was a good migration day for waterfowl since rafts of ducks were seen at Cave Run Lake, but were too far away to identify (FB); 300+ Red-breasted Mergansers were at Green River Lake (JEL) and 500 in two rafts at Louisville (LR). Two female Oldsquaw were present at the Clark Fish Hatchery on November 18, 22, 24, and 29 (LK, FB, AS) and

provided the first record for the Cumberland Plateau. Four Black Scoters along the Ohio River, upstream from Louisville, November 22, were worthy of note (BPB). Five Ruddy Ducks at Long Run Park on October 19 tied the local early date (S, FS); highest count was 103 at Lake Pewee, November 8 (JH).

Vultures through Falcons — Turkey Vultures were reported in fair numbers with 20 at Otter Creek Park, September 19 (DS, FS, BBC) and 47 at Long Run County Park, October 24 (S, FS). The high count for the Black Vulture was 16 at Green River Lake, November 28 (JEL). A Goshawk appeared in the Fort Knox area on October 11 (JG). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were present at the following locations between September 19 and November 25: Otter Creek Park (JG, BBC); Creason Park (JEL); Cumberland Falls (KOS); Bernheim Forest (BS, DD); Falls of the Ohio (S); and three in the Prospect area, September 26 (FK, JK). No large number of Cooper's Hawks were reported, but singles were widespread. Few Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. No major flights of Broad-winged Hawks were noted: 14 at Otter Creek Park, September 19 (JG, BBC); 75 at Louisville, September 21 (BPB) and a late straggler at Fort Wright, November 25 (EG). The first Bald Eagle arrived at BWMA on September 27 and by the end of the period there were five (3 ad. and 2 im.) (TY); six at Hendrick's Creek, November 14 (RS); an immature at the Clark Fish Hatchery, November 24, 29 (AS, FB, LK); and an immature along Ohio River at Louisville, November 23 (DN). Marsh Hawks were scarce, although four were seen at Green River Lake State Park, Taylor County, November 28 (JEL); singles reported elsewhere, with the earliest at Glasgow on September 6 (RS). Eight Ospreys were reported, with the earliest on August 22 at Louisville (S) and the latest at Green River Lake, October 21 (JEL). There were five sightings of the Peregrine Falcon: one over the Kentucky River at Shakerstown, September 18 (DC); one at Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville, October 5 (BPB); one at Guist Lake, October 9 (WB); one at Falls of the Ohio, November 8 (BS, DD); and one near Doe Lake, November 30 (S, FS). A Merlin was seen "mobbing" a Turkey Vulture at Falls of the Ohio, September 18 and one on a Louisville farm, October 5 (BPB).

Cranes through Coots — Six Sandhill Cranes made their appearance at BWMA October 19 — the first time recorded there (TY). Thirty were seen over Bedford, Trimble County, November 5 (JY); good flight over the Louisville area, with 300-350 over Surrey Hill Farm (BPB) and 100+ over Westport Road, November 14 (DN) and 200+ on November 16 (C. Kaufmann *vide* BPB); and two late stragglers at Green River Lake, November 28 (JEL). Greatest concentrations of American Coots included 2600+ at Waitsboro Recreational Area in Pulaski County, November 5 (JEL) and 2000 at Lake Pewee, November 8 (JH).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration on the whole was rather poor. Many areas were dry. No phalaropes were reported. Killdeer gathered early on the rock ledge of the Falls of the Ohio, with a total of 107 on August 19 (LR) and the number remained fairly constant until November 10 (BPB). The greatest number of Killdeer reported was 150+ at Clark Fish Hatchery in the northeastern section of the state, November 5 (FB); another fairly large count was 125+ at Green River Lake Wildlife Manage-

ment Area, November 28 (JEL). American Golden Plover were scarce and reported only from three areas: Falls of the Ohio, August 6 and 14 (LR, S, respectively), September 18-October 7 (BPB), with a high of four on October 1; Fishing Creek Recreational Area, October 4 (JEL); and Clark Fish Hatchery, November 8, 15, 18 (FB) and November 20 (KC), one bird each visit. Two Black-bellied Plover arrived at the Falls of the Ohio, August 18-22 (KC, BM) and one was still there August 25 (DN); three at Jonathan Creek flats, October 15-17 (CP) and one at Jacobson Park in Lexington, October 31-November 1 (RM, DC); no others reported. The Willet, a rare transient, was seen on two occasions: one bird at Falls of the Ohio, August 18 (KC) and another near Kentucky Lake, August 27 (MM, CP and J. Erwin). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were reported in very low numbers from all locations (m. ob.) Pectoral Sandpipers were widely spread, but numbers were low, with the exception of the 60+ at the Falls of the Ohio on August 2 (DN); only six remained the next day (S); stragglers remained until November 24 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB). A White-rumped Sandpiper at the Falls of the Ohio on November 10 was late (BPB). All sightings of Baird's Sandpiper were from the Louisville area between August 3 (S) and October 3 (JEL). Least Sandpipers were unbelievably scarce (1 to 4 birds) in all locations reporting, although "several hundred peeps" were reported at Jonathan Creek (CP), but no specific species mentioned. Dunlin were first recorded at Jonathan Creek, October 15-17, with seven birds (CP), then eight at Green River WMA, October 31 (JEL) and a flock of 12 at Clark Fish Hatchery, November 8 (FB); four to fourteen at Falls of the Ohio, November 5-14 (BPB) and one to two remained in most locations until the end of the period. A count of nine Stilt Sandpipers at Jonathan Creek, September 13 was unusual for this rare fall transient (MM); three still there October 15-17 (CP); singles at two Louisville locations from August 14-September 20 (BBC, DN, BPB). Single Western Sandpipers were present at the Falls of the Ohio on three occasions: August 3 (S, FS), August 10 (LR) and August 14 (BBC): two at Green River Lake WMA, November 28, an extremely late date (JEL). Only a few records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper were received: one to two birds at Louisville from August 25 (BBC) to September 18 (BPB); and one at Jonathan Creek, September 5 (MM). There were seven sightings of the Sanderling at the Falls of the Ohio, all of single birds, with the exception of three on one occasion and six on another, between the dates of August 2-September 21 (DN, S, DC, BPB). American Avocets were reported from four widely separated locations: three at Grayson Lake, August 9 (JMMc); two at Fishing Creek, October 11 (JEL); one at Jacobson Park, October 31-November 1 (RM, DC); and two at Falls of the Ohio, November 13 (DN, LR, BBC).

Gulls through Terns — There were few Herring Gulls in the Louisville area and only about 50 at Kentucky Dam and Lake Barkley on November 23 (BPB). A Ring-billed Gull showed up early at the Falls, August 6 and was seen later by many observers (LR); flock built up slowly and only 12 recorded on November 11 (JG), but 200+ were there on November 15 (S) and 250 later in the month (BPB); and 175 at Green River Lake, November 28 (JEL); an estimated 2000 at Kentucky Dam and Lake Barkley, November 23 (BPB). The species did not appear in Rowan County until November 5 (FB). A Franklin's Gull was a pleasant surprise on the Falls

of the Ohio, November 21 (BPB, DS, BBC *et al*), and was still present on November 25 (JEL). Bonaparte's Gulls were late in arriving and only four to six were seen by the end of the period at the Falls of the Ohio and in western Kentucky (BPB). Terns were very scarce: a single Forester's at Falls of the Ohio, August 29 (BBC) and September 4 (DS); a single Common Tern at the same place on September 4 (DS); a Least Tern on the same date and also on September 6 (DS, DN, respectively). One to four Caspian Terns were present at Louisville from August 5 to September 20 (m. ob).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Cuckoos remained rather late: a Yellow-billed was still present at Eubank on October 20 (JEL) and a Black-billed at Clark Hatchery, October 22 established a late date (FB). Migration of the Common Nighthawk began on August 23 when 30-45 were seen at Louisville and Eubank (FS, JEL) and large flocks at Glasgow, August 29 (RS), but 150-200 passed over Audubon Park in Louisville, August 30-September 1 (JEL) and at Fort Knox with "heavy flights each night" September 2-6, with maximum of 200+ on September 5 (JG); late stragglers were seen October 4-10 at Fort Knox (JG), but one remained very late at Creason Park, November 11 (HF). Migration of the Chimney Swift was noted October 8 at Clark Fish Hatchery when 300+ were observed (FB). Numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers remained low.

Flycatchers through Swallows — A total of 15 Wood Pewee were found at Otter Creek Park, September 19 (JG, BBC). There were only two sightings of Olive-sided Flycatchers: one at Yellow Creek, Daviess County, September 4 (DL) and one at Fort Knox, September 29 (JG). A flock of 250 Rough-winged Swallows gathered on the power lines at Henderson, September 25 (FB). A Barn Swallow at Jonathan Creek on October 18 was a fairly late Straggler (MM). The Purple Martin migration was really in full swing between August 1-8, with the largest concentration at Shippingport Island, with an estimated 10,000 (DN) and only 1000 there the following day; smaller groups of 45-150 were noted in Seneca Park, Louisville on the latter date (S).

Corvidae through Thrushes — Fourteen Fish Crow were still present at the Columbus Ferry area on September 25 (RM, DC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce. A House Wren was seen as late as November 22 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Few observers mentioned the Winter Wren, but a few were observed in Oldham and Jefferson counties in mid-October and November (DN, BBC, BPB). The only Long-billed Marsh Wren reported was one at Eubank on October 4-5 (JEL) and a single Short-billed Marsh Wren in the Louisville area, September 19 and 21 (BPB). A Gray Catbird lingered until November 14-16 in east Louisville (DN). Hermit Thrushes were few, but numbers of Eastern Bluebirds had increased over recent years.

Pipits through Vireos — Water Pipits were reported from five locations: two in the Louisville area, with one to 50 birds each (BPB); small flock of 20 at Jonathan Creek, (CP), three at Somerset (JEL); and 17 in a ploughed field near Guist Lake (WB); records were from September 18 to November 24 and 26. Several flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported, with the largest number, 200+ at Eubank (JEL), September 22. There were

six reports of the Philadelphia Vireo, all of single birds, except for two at Creason Park.

Warblers — There were conflicting reports on the warbler migration. Most observers felt it was a rather dull season, others thought it average, but numbers remained low. There were, however, one or two detectable movements in September and October. Because of the mild fall, many species lingered later than usual. A Golden-Winged Warbler was still present at Louisville on October 8 (BPB). Orange-crowned Warblers were reported only from Louisville, with the latest at Falls of the Ohio on November 9 (BS, DD). Cape May Warblers were encountered on a number of occasions at Eubank between September 12 and October 2 (JEL); six at Fort Knox on September 16 (JG). A total of 50+ Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen at Happy Hollow Farm, Oldham County, October 16 (S, *et al*). Black-throated Green Warblers were visible from August 22 to October 16. A total of 12 Blackburnian Warblers were at Fort Knox on September 6 (JG). August 27 was a fairly early date for a Chestnut-sided Warbler in the Louisville area (S). On September 24 a "wave" of Bay-breasted Warblers was watched at Glasgow (RS); and 10 were at Fort Knox, September 16 (JG). A Palm Warbler arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on August 29 and provided an early state date (S). The only Mourning Warbler reported was one on September 6 at Eubank (JEL).

Blackbirds — A flock of 500 Common Grackle was noted in east Jefferson County, August 12 (S, FS); several thousand (including Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings) at Somerset, November 17 (JEL). A Brewer's Blackbird at Louisville, October 25 was of interest (BPB).

Tanagers through Sparrows — Six Summer Tanagers were present at Fishing Creek, September 27 (JEL). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Eubank, October 21 was a late straggler (JEL). A Blue Grosbeak in song at Madisonville, August 24 was unusual (JH). A late Indigo Bunting was at Elizabethtown, November 22 (Mary Jones *vide* BM). Purple Finches were first reported on November 3 in Seneca Park (BS), but numbers were very low everywhere. House Finches reached Murray on September 20-26 (CP). Pine Siskins were unreported except for two at a feeder in the Valley Station area (Diane Ebel *vide* BPB). The sparrow migration in the Burlington area was "substandard." (LMc). Savannah Sparrows were found in "good" numbers at Louisville in mid-October (BPB). Only a few Vesper Sparrows were reported at Eubank and Louisville (JEL, BPB) in late October. Dark-eyed Juncos were late in arriving: October 3 at Prospect (JK), Louisville, October 4 (FS), Fort Knox, October 8 (JG) and at Glasgow, October 16 (RS) and numbers were low. Tree Sparrows were scarce. Small flocks of 16 to 20 Chipping Sparrows were observed at Happy Hollow Farm, Oldham County, October 16 (BBC) and on Surrey Hill Farm in mid-October (BPB). White-crowned Sparrows were late in arriving and in some areas were in low numbers. White-throated Sparrows were also late and first observed on October 8 at Fort Knox (JG) and Fort Wright (EG). An unusually early Lapland Longspur was heard and seen briefly as it flew up with Horned Larks on October 24 at Louisville (BPB).

The continued support of our members has made the Seasonal Reports possible. All birders are encouraged to submit notes for inclusion in the

reports. The period for the Winter Season is from December 1 through February 28. Notes should reach the writer by March 7, 1983.

Contributors — Garrett Adams (GA), W. H. Brown (WB), Fred Busroe (FB), Keith Camburn (KC), Kathryn Clay (KCl), Dennis Coskren (DC), Don Devitt (DD), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Helen Fisher (HF), John Getgood (JG), Ed Groneman (EG), David Habermel (DH), James Hancock (JH), Lewis Kornman (LK), John Krull (JK), Frank X. Krull (FK), Don Lacy (DL), James & Martha McCormick (JMMC), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), R. Morris (RM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Judy Robertson (JR), H. E. Shadowen (HS), Bernice Shannon (BS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Albert Surmont (AS), John Young (JY), Tom Young (TY). Other abbreviations — Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), many observers (m. ob.)

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, 40222.

FIELD NOTES

AMERICAN AVOCETS IN PULASKI COUNTY

On the morning of October 11, 1982, I observed two American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) at Fishing Creek Recreational Area. This area is located about four miles west of Somerset, Kentucky, on the shore of Lake Cumberland in Pulaski County. I viewed the avocets for more than 20 minutes from a distance of less than 75 feet. Both individuals were in typical winter plumage and were observed resting during the duration of the sighting. The weather was mostly sunny and cool. A cold front had passed through Kentucky the day before.

This observation appears to be the first record from Pulaski County. Though the avocets were seen later in the afternoon by Ginger Murphy, they were not observed the following day.

— JACKIE B. ELMORE, SR., Rt. 1, Box 314 A, Eubank, Kentucky 42567

SUNFLOWER SEED COMPARISON

About four years ago I opened a fifty pound bag of sunflower seed that I had just purchased from the local feed store and was appalled to find it full of tiny "useless" black seeds. I reluctantly put out the seed only to find that it was widely accepted by my usual sunflower-loving birds. Since that time I have come to appreciate the small, black oil sunflower seed and now try to use it exclusively for feeding birds.

Soon after I began using this seed I realized that the piles of hulls below the feeders were not so large and feeders didn't seem to empty quite so fast. For some time I speculated that there was a greater percent of palatable sunflower per pound in this seed type than in the regular striped variety of seed. Recently, I put this theory to the test and thought publication of the results of these preliminary tests might be informative.

The large striped sunflower seed has a bulky, often loose hull around a relatively large heart. It is eaten by a great variety of birds, but not especially favored by the smaller finch species due to its large size. The black oil seed has a thinner, much tighter fitting hull around a somewhat smaller heart. This seed seems to be accepted by all of the birds which normally prefer sunflower seed, including Blue Jays and Cardinals, but is especially favored by the smaller sunflower eating birds, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, nuthatches, American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, etc., because of its more manageable size.

Results of my samples are listed in Table 1. As can be seen in the table, almost half of the gross weight of the striped seed is hull while only slightly over one-fourth of the gross weight of the black oil seed is hull. This cost efficiency is based on the assumption of equal costs for the two seed types. In actuality, black oil seed invariably costs about \$1.00 less per fifty pounds in the Louisville area which makes this cost efficiency even more obvious.

Sample sizes of 100 were used for all tests, and variation between lots was so small that I believe this to be sufficient.

It is possible that some variation exists between years or suppliers, but I would think that this variation is minimal.

TABLE 1	stripped seed	black oil seed
ave. weight of single seed	.1442 gr	.0417 gr
number of seeds/pound	3,143	10,890
% of hulls by weight	48.9	27.1
% of hearts by weight	51.1	72.9
cost of 1 lb. hearts	47¢	33¢
rel. cost of 50 lbs.	\$23.50	\$16.50
number of samples of 100		
for ave. wt. of seed	4	4
number of samples of 100		
for % weights	1	2

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Rd., Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting is scheduled for Barren River State Park April 22 through 24. Reservations at the lodge should be made at your earliest convenience. Camping is also available. This is an excellent locality to observe spring migration and renew acquaintances. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairman, Blaine Ferrell, Dept. of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.